

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, in the first paragraph after the title (added by Amendment dated 28 October 2002), please enter the following amendment:

This application is the National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/US98/21869, filed October 15, 1998, under 35 U.S.C. § 371, which claims benefit of, and is a continuation-in-part of, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/950,403, filed October 15, 1997.

Page 5, lines 22-26, within the paragraph of these page and line numbers, please enter the following amendments:

U.S. Patent 6,176,962 ~~Application Serial No. 08/878,437 filed June 18, 1997 (Attorney Docket No. A-63519/RFT/13K-SOAN-01-1)~~ describes methods for fabricating microchannel structures constructed of a polymeric card-shaped or disc-shaped base plate having a planar surface in' which a microchannel structure is formed, and a planar polymeric cover. The microchannel structure is enclosed by bonding the planar surfaces of the cover and the base plate together.

Page 11, lines 7-15, within the paragraph of these page and line numbers, please enter the following amendments:

Generally, the expression "microstructure", as used herein, means and refers to a single enclosed microchannel or a network of interconnecting microchannels having cross-sectional dimensions suitable for carrying out microfluidic manipulations of materials carried by them. Several steps or stages of an analytical process may be carried out in one microchannel structure, suitably configured. Configurations of various complexity are disclosed for example in U.S. patents 5,900,130 and 6,007,690 ~~Patent Application Ser. No. 08/902,855 filed July 30, 1997 [Attorney Docket No. A62855-1/RFT/BK-SOAN-1]~~ and in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/878,447 filed June 18@ 1997 [A-64739/RFT/BK-SOAN-017], the entire contents of each of which are incorporated herein by this reference.

Page 12, lines 6-13, within the paragraph of these page and line numbers, please enter the following amendments:

The inside of the channel may be coated with a material to improve the strength of the microstructure, for modifying, enhancing or reducing electroosmotic flow, for enhancing or reducing electrophoretic flow, for modification of surface hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity, for binding of selected

compounds, and so forth. Exemplary coatings are silylation, polyacrylamine (vinyl-bound), methylcellulose, polyether, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and polyethylene glycol, polypropylene, Teflon™ (DuPont), Nafion™ (DuPont), polystyrene sulfonate and the like may also be used. See also U.S. Patent 5,935,401 ~~Application Serial No. 08/715,338~~, the relevant disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.